

1 one in seniority in the Upstairs Grow, the restaurant
2 at the Trump Marina that I work in, and I was recently
3 appointed shop chairman of the marina by my union
4 president, Bob McDevitt.

5 And I live a nice, middle class life, nice
6 neighborhood. I drive a nice car, and I'm working on
7 buying my first home, and all of this I owe to
8 Atlantic City, and I don't think it would be possible
9 with the casinos not here.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

12 Dominick. This is our first presenter
13 who's asked to testify with a degree of anonymity, and
14 I would like to remind the press and ask their
15 indulgence with no pictures at this time.

16 DOMINICK: My name is Dominick M.

17 I'm a very grateful compulsive gambler.

18 I just want to get one thing straight here. I'm
19 strictly a union man and always was a union man. I'm
20 not against gambling. I just can't gamble.

21 I'm one of 16 children, and my parents
22 couldn't even read or write, and they raised a family

1 that was second to none. I was the second one in
2 combat in this country, and I see how my parent used
3 to struggle. Four of us slept in the bed, a small
4 room. Used to make a cake. Must have weighed about
5 20 pounds, but we ate it.

6 And I said at 35 years old I was going to
7 retire, and I was always brought up to respect and
8 respect others, taught to be a good son, a good
9 father, and a good husband, and because of my gambling
10 I lost all this hair.

11 I (inaudible) my house six, seven times.
12 (Inaudible.) But for the grace of God, I could have
13 been in jail or prison today. I used to rob my kids'
14 piggy banks.

15 My oldest son was born with one of his
16 intestines on the outside. You know where I was? I
17 was a poker game.

18 I'm not against gambling, but I'm only
19 speaking for myself, what gambling did to me, and I
20 still think that there's a lot of denial in this here
21 room, that we think we can get everything through
22 gambling, but for the grace of God, I had to join the

1 Army because of my gambling.

2 I was always running away, never honest
3 with my wife, went to church and prayed for winners,
4 and I got winners. I used to curse God until I came
5 to Gamblers Anonymous over 31 years ago and realized
6 I wasn't the only guy with this sickness. There was
7 help if I wanted to get help. If I wanted to be a
8 good son and a good father and the good human being I
9 wanted to be, it was in a GA room.

10 I have a wonderful wife and three children
11 who I neglected because gambling became my first love,
12 and when I joined Gamblers Anonymous, I thought I was
13 the only guy who was doing these things, hiding money
14 in the shoes, in the beans. My wife needed money. I
15 was always broker because that was my gambling money.

16 It's sickening. My brothers and sisters
17 to my wife, I was no good, threw me out of the house.
18 My father-in-law hated my guts because of what I did
19 to my wife and his grandchildren.

20 That's what gambling did to me. You know,
21 I'm not against gambling, but I just can't gamble. I
22 go on speaking engagements in the high schools, and

1 that's our future generation? I hate to see another
2 20 years what our country's going to be if we don't
3 help these kids with their gambling because it is
4 getting out of hand.

5 I am so grateful that I am a compulsive
6 gambler because when I was gambling I'd robbed their
7 Goddamn eyes out, but today to reach out and help
8 somebody, it's the greatest pleasure in the world.

9 We started a group in Toms River three,
10 three and a half years ago, just three couples. Do
11 you know how many are in now? Thirty-five to 40
12 members. That's on a Thursday and a Saturday. So it
13 makes us feel good that we're doing something.

14 I'm not being criticized or getting into
15 any controversy with this Committee, but if nobody
16 ever attended a GA meeting up there, how can you
17 really understand the pain and the suffering that we
18 go through? It is impossible.

19 But I would like to see maybe at the
20 meeting that we can hold a meeting for one hours so
21 that I can really tell you the pain and suffering that
22 I really went through.

1 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Dominick.

2 DOMINICK M.: Thank you for listening.

3 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you very much for
4 being here.

5 Mr. Weed.

6 MR. WEED: I've got to clear my throat.

7 I've been around compulsive gamblers for
8 29 years. I could talk for hours, and in three
9 minutes I'm going to just talk on one subject and one
10 subject along, which I wrote down so I won't get off
11 the track.

12 It has to do with our children that
13 Dominick just touched on. What message are we giving
14 them on gambling? Is it good? Is it bad? Is it
15 right or is it wrong?

16 Our fathers, mothers, grandparents,
17 teachers, educators, clergy, all our leaders of our
18 country have said that our children are our future
19 leaders. I have always been taught to have a better
20 way of life and to have a good life, I must work hard
21 and receive a good education.

22 Of course, our message should always be